

## THE PEOPLE'S PLATFORM.

A Graduated Tax Bill in Congress—A Great Reform Measure—Industrial Reformers Favor It—An Interesting Letter from Gen. Percy Daniels in Support of It.

Special Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

## CHAPTER 11.

As noted last week I now call attention to the bill (H. R. 9908) introduced in Congress by Hon. Mr. Ridgely of Kansas. The general purpose of this bill has received eminent endorsement; among the most prominent is that of State legislature of Kansas.

Very briefly stated, the bill provides: "that a graduated tax be levied . . . on all estates between one and two million, a one per centum tax . . . between 2 and 5 million 3 per cent. tax . . . between 5 and 10 million 8 per cent. tax . . . all above 10 million 18 per cent. tax. . . . Section 6 That a United States assessor shall be elected in every voting precinct in every State by the people, who shall have an open office for two months during the annual assessment of property; that every person shall give into this assessor a complete list of all his property owned there or elsewhere in the United States at its actual valuation, which valuation shall be subject to approval or amendment by the assessor or by the boards of equalization where the property is located. The complete assessment list of each district is to be handed over to the county collector of State and county taxes, which is to collect and pay the amount over to each State treasurer, to be held subject to the order of the United States treasurer.

The aggregate amount of this tax is to be divided among all the States to each State one third of the aggregate tax in proportion to its property valuation; one third in proportion to its population and one third in proportion to area.

Each State shall expend this tax for three purposes: First, for pensions to soldiers of the last war; second, for internal improvements, as canal, navigable streams, to make first class highways and public roads. Also, to maintain the national guards. The laborers or agents to be employed in any State shall be citizens of that State.

The act also provides for a heavy immigration tax. It also provides that the assessors above named shall each take the census of his district under direction of the census bureau every ten years also when required to do so by the State for State purposes. Also, he shall keep a permanent list of the votes of his district to be used in the State at all elections if directed. It provides for an inheritance tax for amounts over \$100,000. Section 35 provides, "That the property lists made by the United States assessors shall be used for all purposes of State and local taxation, and the assessors shall furnish complete copies of same whenever required by State laws, and be allowed thereby reasonable compensation for the work."

The measures for carrying this bill into effect are exhaustive, full and complete, the above being a very brief summary of its most important provisions. I do not believe that there has been within the last fifty years before Congress a more important bill nor one which embodied so much for reaching reform fraught with such great benefits to the industrial people as this bill now with the Committee of Ways and Means of the present Congress.

If enacted into law it will do more for the people's liberty and happiness than the free silver bill, savings bank bills and revenue bills, of the last decade, all put together would do.

It seems to me that every Sub Alliance and every industrial organization should officially urge their Congressmen to support that bill and that everyone who favors the measure and can spare a stamp should write his member of Congress to support it.

I say this because the bill embodies the principle of graduated taxation which is needed in the United States to check the enormous aggregations of wealth which enriches a few and impoverishes so many, and because it has been formulated with great ability and care and not because I endorse it. If I could I would amend it, and I believe the amendment will yet be offered as a substitute for its first five sections, as follows:

Section 1. That all revenue for government and public improvement purposes, National, State, county and municipal, shall be raised by a system of graded taxation.

Section 2 That the scale of all properties upon which the graded increase per cent. of tax is to be levied shall be fixed in geometrical progressive steps of \$100 each.

Section 3 That the increased graded rate per centum of tax levied shall be fixed at 1-1,000 of 1 per cent. for each "step" in all property.

Section 4. That for State, county and

municipal purposes the per centum of tax levy may commence at any point on the thousandth scale of rate, as the laws of each local government may provide.

Then I would have the remainder of the bill conform to these sections. I am aware that it is thought this will require an amendment to the constitution of the United States as they think the graduated income tax requires.

I beg space to give a synopsis of one of many important letters received which ably discuss graduated taxation. It is from General Percy Daniels, ex-Lieut. Governor and Congressman of Kansas. I select it because of its eminent author and because he diverges somewhat from supporting the principles as I give them at this time, but fully supports the bill, not because it is more sound, but on the plea of expediency:

"GIRARD KANSAS,

"March 21 1898.

"Hon Samuel Archer, Mica, N. C.

"DEAR SIR:—\* In receipt of your interesting letter of the 25th ult., and have since sent off two papers I was then at work on. \* One purpose of the graduated tax is to enable all to live without borrowing. \* If we start a stream of money amounting to 2,000 million dollars a year from the multi millionaires vaults into the people's pockets, in five years money would go begging at 2 per cent. That is what the bill before Congress proposes and provides for. My idea with reference to graduated taxation has been to prove its utility and feasibility without at once reaching the line of equitability. The process once started would certainly be extended. It is only the anarchistic apostles of greed who attempt to defraud the Government by shirking taxation. No process will save the Republic that does not force them to disgorge and give them a new revelation. The plutocrats object to a tax even on their stealings, so it is proposed to tax them (and let them equal) to as to confer on the masses the profits of their industry, distributing it through the medium of needed public works and the pensions. A tax of this nature will scatter the millions of those who own the great corporations. . . . Another advantage . . . is the fact that a bill for this purpose is now before Congress for the 5th time with the official endorsement of one of the States. . . . We should rather reclaim them (corporations) as servants of the public than to seek to wipe them out. . . . The revenues of the Government are now largely a per capita tax and while the South bears her share in supplying the funds, she gets but a small amount of the vast sums expended for these two purposes. (Pensions and public improvements.) This is an onerous burden on the Southern people of which the bill in question would relieve them. . . . North Carolina pays about \$4,000,000 in war charges and her citizens draw in pensions less than \$600,000. Under this bill she would draw about \$36,000,000 for pensions and improvements in the State. Don't you see the important point to your State? . . . I agree with you fully in ridding the masses of the curse of usury. . . . Would it not be better for you in discussing the project of graduated taxation to support a measure now before the country . . . that would certainly do much toward correcting the evils we all recognize, even knowing it would not fully meet the exactions of equity? . . . It is possible, too, that the less these experiments disturb the present methods of support for the government the more readily we can gather the strength to make them. If in this way the availability of graduated taxation can be demonstrated, it can then be readily pushed forward till it reaches the line of absolute equity. Hoping that in your discussion of the proposition you will give these suggestions a hearing, I am, "Yours very truly,

"PERCY DANIELS."

Like Gen. Daniels, I speak and write in support of the pending bill, but were I member of Congress I would first amend it as above stated if I could. When I am writing as now in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER on principles to be advocated by a great industrial organization—the Farmers' Alliance and perhaps the People's reform Party—I advocate great principles that are fundamental in character and that, too, at once, on the line of equity. I would graduate the tax on millionaires and on all other people. Even granting that they got their millions by legal robbery we must remember that we the people made the laws or permitted them to be made that gave them the opportunity to accumulate.

We have agreed to live under a constitution on principles of equity in justice between all, both rich and poor. I do not advocate graded taxation as a punishment for getting rich or robbery, but because it is just and equitable.

As a reform principle it will tone

down the immense fortunes and retard their accumulation and at the same time encourage industry in accumulating and promote the virtues, education and happiness of the masses.

In answer to some who have asked it I will give next week a tabulated illustration of the practical operations of graduated taxation.

SAMUEL ARCHER, Mica, N. C.

SOME ALLIANCEMEN.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

Will you be so kind as to allow me the use of our big mouth, one corner of which is sipping sweet nectar from the "Yellow roses of Texas," while the other corner is slyly kissing the ruby lips of the "Belle of Tennessee," to whisper a few words of brotherly love and good will, to the dear Alliance brethren I met at Headquarters last August?

How are you, Bro. "Doorkeeper"? Well, I hope, Bro. Lyon will please sit up in bed and give us another good joke; and Bro. Parker, where's he? Safe in the "promised land"? And where is Bro. Seawell full of facts and fun; and good old Bro. Mercer—God bless him—and dear old Bro. Est on—how many grand-children have you by this time? And where is that "goldheaded cane"? I hope it has not gone where the first Cain went.

And Brethren W. B. Flemming and J. W. Denmark, trusted and true, weighed in the balance, and nothing found wanting; and Brother "Alphabet" Hoover, who, I am sorry to learn, has rheumatism; and Bro. J. M. H.yle, who brings me back to the good old days, "lang syne," when I was a boy, and went to Robinson's show to see and hear the clown talk.

But time and space fails me to call you all by name, so please allow me to place my right hand on the back of our good President's chair, and slipping my left arm around you all, draw you into a closer union of Alliance love and affection.

Fraternally, W. H. DAVIS, Williamsboro, N. C.

NOTICE.

There will be a convention of the People's Party of Rockingham county at Wentworth, Tuesday, May 3rd, for the purpose of electing delegates to the State Convention, and to transact any other business that may come before the Convention. All persons who favor the Populist State and National platforms and who are willing to co-operate with the People's Party to secure and perpetuate those reforms, are cordially invited to participate in this Convention. W. D. WALL, Chairman People's Party County Executive Committee.

NOTICE.

Pursuant to plan of organization, the People's Party Convention of Wake county is hereby called to meet at the Court House, in Raleigh, on Saturday, April 30th, at 12 o'clock m.

The precinct primaries will meet at their respective voting precincts on Friday, April 29th, at 2 o'clock p. m., except Raleigh township, which will meet at the court-house, at 8 o'clock p. m., Friday, April 29th.

Each precinct will elect three delegates at large and one delegate for every twenty-five votes or majority fraction thereof cast for Exum for Governor in 1892.

Said primary will also elect an executive committee of five for each precinct.

The County Executive Committee will meet at the court house on Saturday, April 30th, 10 a. m., to elect a county chairman.

S. OTHO WILSON, Chm'n Wake Co. P. Ex. Com. GUY V. BARNES, Secretary.

# GOLD DUST

## THE BEST WASHING POWDER

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A boy who recently left home to attend a preparatory school is not much pleased with the change. He is suffering his first attack of homesickness, and naturally wishes to return. In making known his desires to his father, he writes:—"Dear father: Life is short; let us spend it together. Your affectionate son."—Ex.

## CHRISTMAS WATERMELONS.

The prices paid for early watermelon, though high, will not compare with the fancy figures which the "Christmas watermelon" commands. One would think their appearance at this season decidedly out of place—that they would be in about as much demand as overcoats on the Fourth of July; but strange to say, the public buys them with avidity, too, and at enormous prices. So it seems that late watermelons ought to be an achievement much more worth striving for than early ones, while the cost and labor of their attainment are considerably less. At any rate this is the conclusion reached by reading a recent bulletin of the Georgia Experiment Station.

Mr. David F. Verner, of Gwinnett county, Ga., is noted for the fine melons which he markets at Christmas, and his process is simplicity itself. That it will prove equally easy to all who try it is by no means to be expected, and there will doubtless be many failures and disappointments if others attempt to imitate his methods. But the fact remains that he does raise (and save) late watermelons, and on the 23d of last December sold them in quantities and at good figures on the streets of Buford.

Mr. Verner is sufficiently unselfish to be willing to share the knowledge of his process with the public, and his methods are consequently given in his own words, as follows:

"The variety of watermelon used by me for late keepings is the Georgia Ratlesnake. The plan which I pursue is as follows: I prepare the ground thoroughly during May—not in the usual way by digging holes, but by opening deep furrows with a two horse plow. I use stable manure in the drill, but not too much; cover with two furrows and leave till planting time. Rows 12 feet apart—8 feet in drill. I leave only one vine to the hill. Plant between 18 h and 30 h of June; cultivate with sweep run very shallow. Don't let the plow touch vines. Melons matured before the vine begins to die around root are the only ones easily preserved.

"For preservation, place in dry cellar on cotton seed. I still have eight fine melons on hand (January 4) in perfect condition that I intended saving till spring, but in neglecting cellar in which they were stored in order that meat in the same cellar should get cold, they have frozen. I aim to raise melons this summer that I can save till melons come again."

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Fraternally, J. T. B. HOOVER, Sec'y-Treas. N. C. F. S. A., Hillsboro, N. C.



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